

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-21 (canceled).

22. (new) A case for a cosmetic product, comprising:
a cover provided with a first hinge portion,
a recessed bottom optionally including an intermediate support fixed to the bottom and a receptacle in which the cosmetic product will be placed,

the bottom being provided with a second hinge portion, a hinge with an axis of rotation R formed by cooperation between the first and second hinge portions,

means for locking and unlocking the cover with respect to the bottom,

optionally an applicator for the cosmetic product,

a driving means for at least partially opening the cover and an opposing braking means cooperating with the first and second hinge portions, the driving means and the braking means respectively applying a driving torque $C_M = M(\alpha)$ and a braking torque $C_F = F(\alpha)$ on the cover in opposite directions, and with a predetermined force depending on an opening angle α of the cover, and

at least one clasp located on a side part of the case laterally offset from a central plane P perpendicular to the axis of rotation R , such that the bottom may be gripped between the thumb and one finger of one hand, applying pressure on the clasp along a direction D parallel to the axis of rotation R , the thumb and finger thereby triggering opening of the cover without coming into contact with the hinge portions and without hindering opening of the cover under the action of the driving means.

23. (new) Case according to claim 22, wherein the driving torque $C_M = CM(\alpha)$ and the braking torque $C_F = F(\alpha)$ are selected to obtain a relation $C_M \geq C_F$ for an opening angle α varying from 0° to α_0 , the angle at which the opposing torques are balanced, the cover then tending to open under the action of the driving torque, and for a relation $C_M < C_F$ for an opening angle α more than α_0 , and as far as a cover stop position, the cover then having a resistance to opening or optionally tending to close under the action of the braking torque, such that regardless of the opening angle α of the cover, at least one of the opposing driving torque C_M and braking torque C_F is active on the cover, such that the angle α_0 is between 60° to 160° .

24. (new) Case according to claim 23, wherein the hinge introduces sufficiently large friction forces between the first hinge portion and the second hinge portion that the cover can be in an equilibrium position for an opening angle α varying from approximately $\alpha_0 - \beta$ to $\alpha_0 + \beta$, so that angular equilibrium is possible with a range equal to 2β , between 30° and 90° , β being larger when the friction forces are higher.

25. (new) Case according to claim 22, wherein the driving torque $C_M = M(\alpha)$ and braking torque $C_F = F(\alpha)$ are selected such that the relations $C_M > 0$ and $C_F = 0$ are satisfied for an opening angle α varying from 0° to α_1 , the cover then tending to open under the action of the driving torque, and such that the relations $C_M = 0$ and $C_F > 0$ are satisfied for an opening angle α greater than α_2 , and as far as a stop position of the cover, the cover then having a resistance to opening or optionally tending to close under the action of the braking torque, such that the angles α_1 and α_2 define the limits of an

angular equilibrium range $\alpha_1 - \alpha_2$ within an angular range $60^\circ - 160^\circ$, with $\alpha_2 - \alpha_1$ equal to at least 30° .

26. (new) Case according to claim 25, wherein the hinge introduces sufficiently large friction forces between the first hinge portion and second hinge portion that the cover has an equilibrium position for an opening angle α varying from approximately $\alpha_1 - \beta$ to $\alpha_2 + \beta$ so as to form an angular equilibrium range between 30° and 90° , where the angle β is larger when the friction forces are higher.

27. (new) Case according to 22, wherein at least one of the driving means and braking means forms annular or tubular elements cooperating inside with either the first hinge portion or the second hinge portion forming a central hinge pin of the annular or tubular elements, and cooperating outside with the other of the first and second hinge portions forming a tubular portion.

28. (new) Case according to claim 27, wherein at least one of the driving means and the braking means forms cylindrical elements cooperating with the first hinge portion and second hinge portion, forming a central axis for the hinge portions.

29. (new) Case according to claim 22, wherein the first hinge portion and second hinge portion each comprises a right part and a left part, and one of the driving means or braking means cooperates with one of the right and left parts, and the other means cooperates with the other of the right and left parts.

30. (new) Case according to claim 29, wherein each of the driving means and braking means forming the cylindrical elements cooperates with the first and second hinge portions, forming a central axis for the hinge portions acting as the right pins and the left pins to fix the first and second hinge

portions forming the right part and the left part of the hinge.

31. (new) Case according to claim 28, wherein at least one of the driving means and the braking means comprises an angular adjustment range enabling modification to the torques C_M and C_F .

32. (new) Case according to claim 22, wherein at least one of the driving means and the braking means comprises at least one spring having helical turns and an axis coincident with the axis of the hinge, one end of the spring cooperating with one portion of the hinge, and the other end of the spring cooperating with the other portion of the hinge, so as to obtain driving torque $C_M = M(\alpha)$ and braking torque $C_F = F(\alpha)$.

33. (new) Case according to claim 22, wherein the braking means includes axial cooperation between two non-cylindrical elements forming a friction element, a cam formed by a rigid internal element and a tubular element, with an internal profile facing the cam selected so as to obtain braking torque $C_F = F(\alpha)$, and one of the non-cylindrical elements cooperates with one of the hinge portions, and the other non-cylindrical element cooperates with the other hinge portion.

34. (new) Case according to claim 22, wherein each of the driving means and the braking means comprises two parts fixed in rotation, one part comprising a means of fixing to one of the hinge portions and the other part forming means of fixing to the other hinge portion.

35. (new) Case according to claim 34, wherein each means of fixing to one portion of the hinge is formed by an axial assembly of a male part and a female part belonging to the fixing means and the hinge, along the axis of the hinge.

36. (new) Case according to claim 35, wherein the male and female parts are grooved, with a number N of ribs or

grooves for the male part cooperating with a number N of grooves or ribs for the female part, where N is between 3 and 18.

37. (new) Case according to claim 22, which is a case, make-up powder compact, cream pot, or perfume receptacle.

38. (new) Case according to claim 22, in the form of a round or oval shape, wherein the clasp and optionally the pushbutton are disposed outside a prohibited area of the bottom, the prohibited area corresponding to a front and back part of the case between planes P1 and P2, parallel to the plane P, and that surround the hinge.

39. (new) Case according to claim 22, in the form of a square or rectangular case, wherein the clasp and optionally the pushbutton are disposed on one side or on a side wall of the bottom of the case.

40. (new) Case according to claim 22, comprising two clasps or pushbuttons disposed symmetrically with respect to the central plane P, the two clasps or pushbuttons also forming manual areas for gripping the case.

41. (new) Process for manufacturing a case comprising:

- a cover provided with a first hinge portion,

- a recessed bottom optionally including an intermediate support fixed to the bottom and a receptacle in which a cosmetic product will be placed,

- the bottom being provided with a second hinge portion, a hinge with an axis of rotation R formed by cooperation between the first and second hinge portions,

- means for locking and unlocking the cover with respect to the bottom,

- optionally an applicator for the cosmetic product,

- a driving means for at least partially opening the cover and an opposing braking means cooperating with the first and second hinge portions, the driving means and the braking means

respectively applying a driving torque $C_M = M(\alpha)$ and a braking torque $C_F = F(\alpha)$ on the cover in opposite directions, and with a predetermined force depending on an opening angle α of the cover, and

at least one clasp located on a side part of the case laterally offset from a central plane P perpendicular to the axis of rotation R, such that the bottom may be gripped between the thumb and one finger of one hand, applying pressure on the clasp along a direction D parallel to the axis of rotation R, the thumb and finger thereby triggering opening of the cover without coming into contact with the hinge portions and without hindering opening of the cover under the action of the driving means,

wherein at least one of the driving means and the braking means forms cylindrical elements cooperating with the first hinge portion and second hinge portion, forming a central axis for the hinge portions,

comprising using the driving means and braking means to act as right pins and left pins to fix the first hinge portion and second hinge portion together, and

placing the first and second hinge portions into position, obtaining the driving means and braking means and then assembling the driving and braking means to the first hinge portion and the second hinge portion by axial click fitting at zero or almost zero stress, with an opening angle α of the cover being close to 0° during assembly of the braking means and the opening angle α of the cover being close to 90° for the driving means (4).

42. (new) Process for manufacturing a case comprising:
a cover provided with a first hinge portion,

a recessed bottom optionally including an intermediate support fixed to the bottom and a receptacle in which a cosmetic product will be placed,

the bottom being provided with a second hinge portion, a hinge with an axis of rotation R formed by cooperation between the first and second hinge portions,

means for locking and unlocking the cover with respect to the bottom,

optionally an applicator for the cosmetic product,

a driving means for at least partially opening the cover and an opposing braking means cooperating with the first and second hinge portions, the driving means and the braking means respectively applying a driving torque $C_M = M(\alpha)$ and a braking torque $C_F = F(\alpha)$ on the cover in opposite directions, and with a predetermined force depending on an opening angle α of the cover, and

at least one clasp located on a side part of the case laterally offset from a central plane P perpendicular to the axis of rotation R, such that the bottom may be gripped between the thumb and one finger of one hand, applying pressure on the clasp along a direction D parallel to the axis of rotation R, the thumb and finger thereby triggering opening of the cover without coming into contact with the hinge portions and without hindering opening of the cover under the action of the driving means,

wherein at least one of the driving means and the braking means forms cylindrical elements cooperating with the first hinge portion and second hinge portion, forming a central axis for the hinge portions,

comprising using the driving means and braking means to act as right pins and left pins to fix the first hinge portion and second hinge portion together, and

placing the first and second hinge portions into position, obtaining the driving means and braking means and then assembling the driving and braking means to the first hinge portion and the second hinge portion by axial click fitting at zero or almost zero stress,

at least one of the driving means and braking means comprising an accessible fixing means at one end and comprising an angular adjustment means such that, after assembly, the angle of the accessible fixing means can be later adjusted by orientation of the ribs and grooves enabling rotation with respect to each other, to obtain the opposing driving torque $C_M = M(\alpha)$ and braking torque $C_F = F(\alpha)$.